

# African Chicken Genetic Gains

## Common conceptual gender framework

### Key messages

- African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG) is an agriculture-research-for-development (AR4D) project seeking to introduce, test, and upscale improved, tropically-adapted chicken strains in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Tanzania.
- Given its dual emphasis on research and development, ACGG aims to integrate gender into its technical research and day-to-day development operations.
- ACGG undertakes research into how improved breeds impact gender relations and how gender relations impact the adoption of improved breeds.
- The development approach of ACGG seeks to improve the lives of participating farmers.

### Approach

- The ACGG gender strategy is centred on researching and improving: gender division of labour; access to and control over resources; intra-household decision-making; and gender norms.
- Through participatory methods, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) worked with the ACGG teams in Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Tanzania to frame these key concepts in the ACGG common conceptual framework.

### Methodology

- Over an 18-month period, ACGG has monitored information on several dimensions of the gender conceptual framework, in particular: gender division of labour; access to resources; and control over benefits.
- The baseline and the ongoing longitudinal data will be used to identify changes in the above indicators as influenced by ACGG. This information will be used to design inclusive breed improvement programs and the upscaling of selected breeds.

### Baseline results and evidence

Key baseline data provides a profile of ACGG beneficiaries in Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Tanzania:

- Joint ownership of chickens is the most frequent ownership type, followed by ownership by the female household members.
- Compared to women, men own more farm and household assets.
- Dietary diversity scores were higher for children, 5.93 in Ethiopia, 6.41 in Nigeria, and 5.79 in Tanzania, than for men and women.
- The vast majority of households, >95%, kept poultry for at least two years.
- Adult women have the heaviest labour burden in poultry systems, ranging from 90–138 minutes a week on chicken-keeping activities, followed by children.
- Significant differences were reported in the control over benefits across ACGG; Ethiopia, 70% of decisions regarding the sale of birds are joint household decisions; Nigeria, households reported that 46.3% of the time adult females decide on the number of chickens sold; and Tanzania, 60% of sale events are a joint household decision.

#### Contacts

Jasmine Bruno  
ILRI, Ethiopia  
[j.Bruno@cgiar.org](mailto:j.Bruno@cgiar.org)

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### Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock



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ACGG Ethiopia beneficiary with improved, tropically-adapted chicken strains  
(Photo credit: ILRI/Apollo Habtamu)

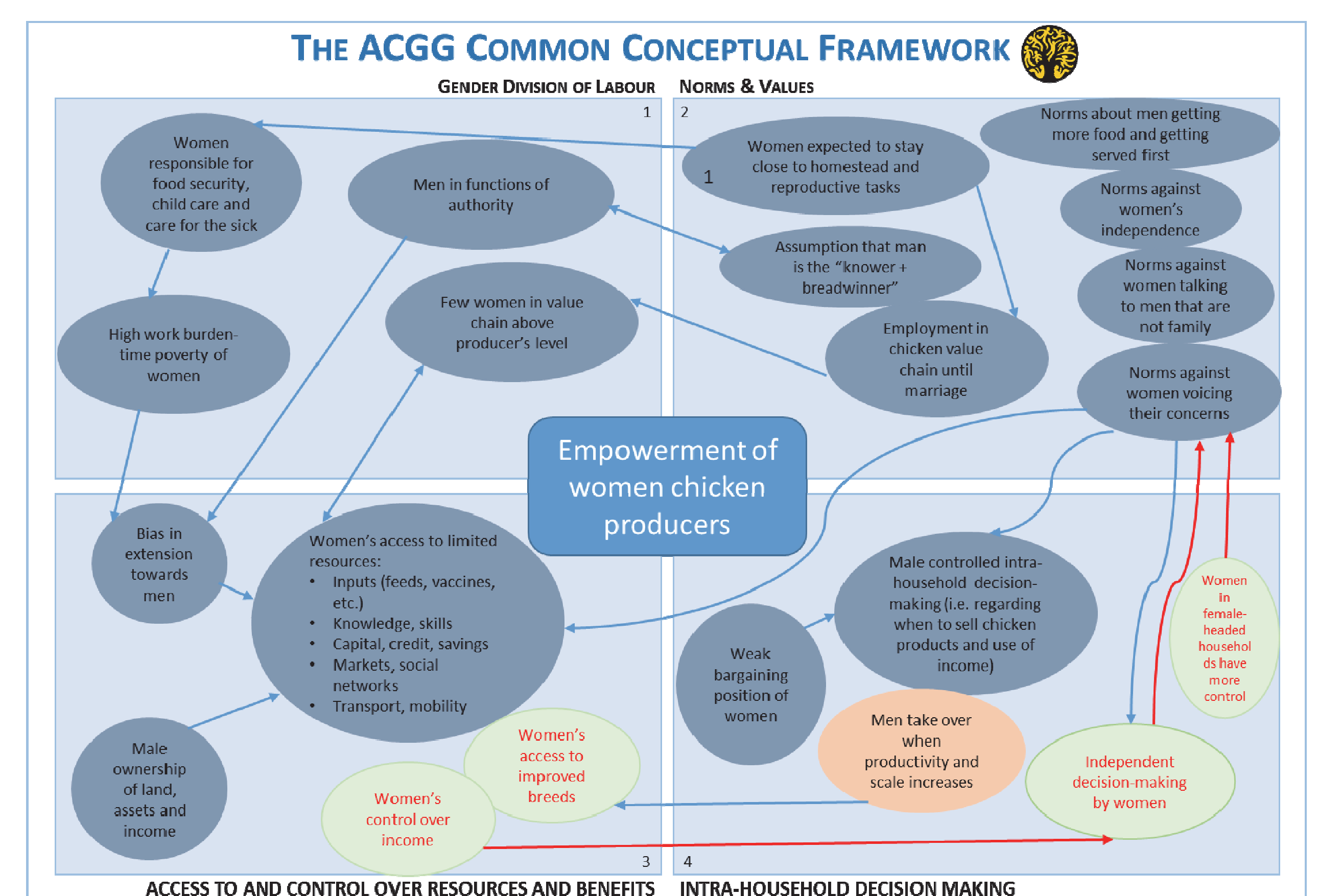


Figure 1. The ACGG common conceptual framework as mapped by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT).

### Multiplier effects

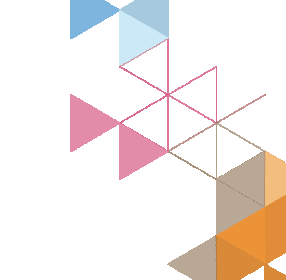
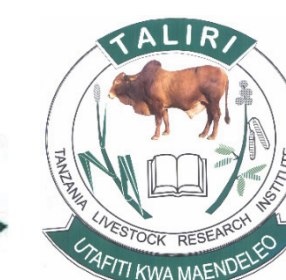
The outcomes of the ACGG gender research can be used to:

- Improve adoption in breed improvement programs across species;
- Enhance the existing knowledge base on the impact of breed improvement programs on gender relations; and
- Inform the development of inclusive breed improvement in the smallholder chicken value chains in sub-Saharan Africa.

### Partners

Lead partner-Royal Tropical Institute

Supporting project—African Chicken Genetic Gains: Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research; Tanzania Livestock Research Institute; Obafemi Awolowo University; PICO-EA; and Wageningen University.



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